

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) Multi-layered prophylactic article comprising:

(i) an elastomeric base layer including an internal and an external surface and

(ii) an anti-friction layer comprising:

(a) a polymeric material with an internal surface and an external surface facing the internal surface of the base layer; and

(b) regularly recurring raised areas or recesses of an irregular shape, produced by rapidly removing liquid from the anti-friction layer, such that a lower limit of 20% and an upper limit of 95% of the total number of recesses extends through the entire thickness of the anti-friction layer; and

(iii) ~~particles~~ microcapsules with a diameter having an upper limit of 500 μm and a lower limit of 10 μm and which contain at least one active substance and/or dye inside and positioned in at least one of the following: between the base layer and the anti-friction layer or a part region thereof, in the anti-friction layer or a part region thereof, on the internal surface of the anti-friction layer or a part region thereof, or within a layer incorporating the at least one active substance and/or dye in at least a part region between the base layer and the anti-friction layer.

2. (Currently Amended) Prophylactic article as claimed in claim 1, wherein the diameter of the ~~particles~~ microcapsules has an upper limit of 250 μm and a lower limit of 50 μm .

3. (Currently Amended) Prophylactic article as claimed in claim 1, wherein the diameter of the ~~particles~~ microcapsules is at least 80 % of the thickness of the anti-friction layer.

4. (Currently Amended) Prophylactic article as claimed in claim 3, wherein the diameter of the ~~particles~~ microcapsules is the same size as the thickness of the anti-friction layer.

5. (Currently Amended) Prophylactic article as claimed in claim 3, wherein the diameter of the ~~particles~~ microcapsules is bigger than the thickness of the anti-friction layer.

6. (Withdrawn) Prophylactic article as claimed in claim 1, wherein the part region encompasses the region of at least one of, the distal forearm, the carpal bones, the metacarpals, and the base, middle and terminal phalanges of the fingers.

7. (Withdrawn) Prophylactic article as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ~~particles~~ microcapsules and/or the layer is applied to both the palm side and dorsal side in at least one part region.

8. (Withdrawn) Prophylactic article as claimed in claim 1, wherein the part region extends across a region of the internal surface of the base layer and/or between the base layer and

the anti-friction layer and/or in the anti-friction layer and/or on the internal surface of the anti-friction layer in a range with a lower limit of 40 % and an upper limit of 100 %.

9. (Currently Amended) Prophylactic article as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ~~partieles~~ microcapsules and/or the layer is a different color from the base layer and anti-friction layer.

10. (Currently Amended) Prophylactic article as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ~~partieles~~ microcapsules are water-insoluble.

11. (Currently Amended) Prophylactic article as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ~~partieles~~ microcapsules are water-soluble.

12. (Withdrawn) Prophylactic article as claimed in claim 1, wherein the active substance has at least one of an antibacterial, antiviral, germicidal, spermicidal or protective action.

13. (Withdrawn) Prophylactic article as claimed in claim 12, wherein the active substance is selected from a group consisting of chlorohexidin, an acetate, a hydrochloride, nonoxinol 9 and aloe vera.

14. (Previously Presented) Prophylactic article as claimed in claim 1, wherein the active substance is selected from a group consisting of vitamins and plant extracts.

15. (Original) Prophylactic article as claimed in claim 14, wherein vitamins are selected from a group consisting of compounds with a retinoid structure (vitamin A), vitamin B-complex, ascorbic acid (vitamin C), calciferols (vitamin D), tocopherols (vitamin E), vitamin K, flavonoids and biotin.

16. (Withdrawn) Prophylactic article as claimed in claim 12, wherein the concentration of the at least one active substance and/or dye in the ~~partieles~~ microcapsules has a range with a lower limit of 1 % and an upper limit of 20 %.

17. (Withdrawn) Prophylactic article as claimed in claim 1, wherein a shell of the ~~partieles~~ microcapsules is pressure-sensitive.

18. (Currently Amended) Prophylactic article as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ~~partieles~~ microcapsules form the anti-friction layer in at least a part-region.

19. (Previously Presented) Prophylactic article as claimed in claim 1, wherein a thickness of the anti-friction layer has a range with a lower limit of 30 μm and an upper limit of 500 μm .

20. (Previously Presented) Prophylactic article as claimed in claim 19, wherein the thickness of the anti-friction layer has a range with a lower limit of 55 μm and an upper limit of 200 μm .

21. (Withdrawn) Prophylactic article as claimed in claim 1, wherein the recesses have a maximum diameter, as seen in plan view, in a range with an upper limit of 30 μm , and a lower limit of 1 μm .

22. (Withdrawn) Prophylactic article as claimed in claim 1, wherein the recesses are crater-shaped and taper in the direction towards the base layer.

23. (Withdrawn) Prophylactic article as claimed in claim 22, wherein walls of the crater-shaped recesses subtend an angle with the line perpendicular to the anti-friction layer has a range with a lower limit of 30 ° and an upper limit of 80 °.

24. (Withdrawn) Prophylactic article as claimed in claim 1, wherein a quantity of the active substance and/or dye is selected so that the active substance and/or dye is preferably released in at least substantially uniform doses throughout the entire time the prophylactic article is being worn.

25. (Withdrawn) Prophylactic article as claimed in claim 1, wherein the active substance and/or dye has a solubility in water at 20 °C with a lower limit of 1 g/l and an upper limit of 20 g/l.

26. (Withdrawn) Prophylactic article as claimed in claim 1, wherein a solution of the active substance and/or dye in the ~~particles~~ microcapsules has a pH value selected from a range of 5.5 to 7.5.

27. (Withdrawn) Prophylactic article as claimed in claim 1, wherein the raised areas are arranged in an at least predominantly network-type arrangement with inter-connecting webs.

28. (Withdrawn) Prophylactic article as claimed in claim 27, wherein a height of at least a part of the webs is between 25 % and 100 % of the total thickness of the anti-friction layer.

29. (Withdrawn) Method of producing a multi-layered prophylactic article comprising: providing at least a base layer composed of an elastomeric material including an internal surface and an external surface, the internal surface of the base layer including an anti-friction layer composed of a polymeric material with an internal surface and an external surface facing the internal surface of the base layer, wherein at least one active substance and/or dye inside particles is applied to at least one of the internal surface of the base layer, between the base layer and the anti-friction layer, in the anti-friction layer, on the external surface of the anti-friction layer, or in the at least one part-region between the base layer and the anti-friction layer, -said particles having a diameter with an upper limit of 500 μm and a lower limit of 10 μm said anti-friction layer having regularly recurring raised areas or recesses of an irregular shape produced by rapidly removing liquid from the anti-friction layer, and a proportion of the recesses having a range with a lower limit of 20 % and an upper limit of 95 % by reference to the total number of recesses, said recesses extending through the entire thickness of the anti-friction layer.

30. (Withdrawn) Method as claimed in claim 29, wherein the applied particles have a diameter with an upper limit of 250 μm and a lower limit of 50 μm .

31. (Withdrawn) Method as claimed in claim 29, wherein the particles and/or layer is or are applied in the form of a heterogeneous mixture.

32. (Withdrawn) Method as claimed in claim 31, wherein at least a part-region of the anti-friction layer is formed by the heterogeneous mixture.

33. (Withdrawn) Method as claimed in claim 29, wherein a concentration of particles in the heterogeneous mixture has a lower limit of 1 % and an upper limit of 50 %.

34. (Withdrawn) Method as claimed in claim 22, wherein the concentration of the particles in the heterogeneous mixture has a lower limit of 6 % and an upper limit of 25 %.

35. (Withdrawn) Method as claimed in claim 29, wherein the liquid is removed within a period with a lower limit of 10 seconds and an upper limit of 20 min.

36. (Withdrawn) Method as claimed in claim 29, wherein the liquid is removed at a temperature from a range with a lower limit of 60 °C and an upper limit of 150 °C.

37. (Withdrawn) Method as claimed in claim 29, wherein particles with a water-soluble shell are used.

38. (Withdrawn) Method as claimed in claim 29, wherein particles with a water-insoluble shell are used.

39. (Withdrawn) Method as claimed in claim 29, wherein the active substance is a substance with an antibacterial or antiviral or germicidal or spermicidal or protective action.

40. (Withdrawn) Method as claimed in claim 29, wherein the active substance is selected from a group consisting of chlorohexidin, an acetate, a hydrochloride, nonoxinol 9 and aloe vera.

41. (Withdrawn) Method as claimed in claim 29, wherein the substance is selected from a group consisting of vitamins, plant extracts, in particular secondary plant extracts.

42. (Withdrawn) Method as claimed in claim 41, wherein the vitamins are selected from a group consisting of compounds with a retinoid structure (vitamin A), vitamin B-complex, ascorbic acid (vitamin C), calciferols (vitamin D), tocopherols (vitamin E), vitamin K, flavonoids and biotin.

43. (Withdrawn) Method as claimed in claim 29, wherein the at least one active substance and/or dye is contained in the particles in a concentration with a lower limit of 1% and an upper limit of 20 %.

44. (Withdrawn) Method as claimed in claim 29, wherein the particles are applied in at least one part-region in the anti-friction layer.

45. (Withdrawn) Method as claimed in claim 29, wherein the material used for the anti-friction layer is applied until the latter has a thickness with a lower limit of 30 μm and an upper limit of 500 μm .

46. (Withdrawn) Prophylactic article as claimed in claim 45, wherein the thickness of the anti-friction layer has a lower limit of 55 μm and an upper limit of 200 μm .

47. (Withdrawn) Method as claimed in claim 29, wherein the time during which the liquid is removed is selected so that the recesses produced have a maximum diameter, as seen in plan view, with an upper limit of 30 μm , and a lower limit of 1 μm .

48. (Withdrawn) Method as claimed in claim 29, wherein the time during which the liquid is removed is selected so that crater-shaped recesses are formed which taper in the direction towards the base layer.

49. (Withdrawn) Method as claimed in claim 29, wherein an active substance and/or a dye has a solubility in water at 20 °C with a lower limit of 1 g/l and an upper limit of 20 g/l.

50. (Withdrawn) Method as claimed in claim 29, wherein a solution of the active substance and/or dye in the particle is adjusted and/or displaced with a buffer so that it has and maintains a pH value selected from a range of 5.5 to 7.5.

51. (Withdrawn) Method as claimed in claim 29, wherein the raised areas form an at least substantially network-type pattern with inter-connecting webs.

52. (Withdrawn) Method as claimed in claim 51, wherein the at least a part of the webs are formed with a height between 25 % and 100 % of the total thickness of the anti-friction layer.

53. (Previously Presented) Multi-layered prophylactic medical glove comprising:

(i) an elastomeric base layer including an internal and an external surface

(ii) an anti-friction layer comprising:

(a) a polymeric material with an internal surface and an external surface facing the internal surface of the base layer; and

(b) regularly recurring raised areas or recesses of an irregular shape, produced by rapidly removing liquid from the anti-friction layer, such that a lower limit of 20% and an upper limit of 95% of the total number of recesses extends through the entire thickness of the anti-friction layer; and

(iii) particles with a diameter having an upper limit of 500 μm and a lower limit of 10 μm and which contain at least one active substance and/or dye inside and positioned in at least one of the following: between the base layer and the anti-friction layer or a part region thereof, in the anti-friction layer or a part region thereof, on the internal surface of the anti-friction layer or a part region thereof, or within a layer incorporating the at least one active substance and/or dye in at least a part region between the base layer and the anti-friction layer.

54. (Previously Presented) Prophylactic article as claimed in claim 1, wherein said elastomeric base layer is made from synthetic or natural latex.

55. (Previously Presented) Prophylactic article as claimed in claim 14, wherein the plant extracts comprise secondary plant extracts.

56. (Withdrawn) Method as claimed in claim 29, wherein said article is a medical glove.

57. (Withdrawn) Method as claimed in claim 29, wherein said elastomeric base layer is made from synthetic or natural latex.

58. (Withdrawn) Method as claimed in claim 29, wherein the layer incorporating at least one active substance and/or dye is applied in the at least one part-region between the base layer and the anti-friction layer by dipping or spraying.

59. (Withdrawn) Method as claimed in claim 31, wherein the particles and/or layer is or are applied in the form of a suspension or dispersion.